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President HUYNH TAN PHAT Welcomed by Cambodian Head of State NORODOM SIHANOUK

ON June 30, 1969 at the Royal Palace in Puom Penh, Head of State Norodom Sihanouk extended a warm welcome to President Huynh Tan Phat and the members of the Delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on a visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk lauded the heroic struggle of the South Vietnamese people and was firmly convinced that, under the leadership of the PRG, they will win final victory. He reaffirmed his resolve and that of the Cambodian Royal Government to recognize the NFL and the PRG as sole genuine representatives of the South Vietnamese people, and unreservedly support the South Vietnamese in their resistance against U.S. aggression and for national salvation.

On the same day, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk gave a state banquet in honour of President Huynh Tan Phat and his delegation.

On July 1, 1969, a talk was held at Chamcar Mon Palace between the delegation of the PRG and that of the Cambodian Royal Government.

South Viet Nam

PLAF JUNE SUCCESSES

KEPT-UP WIDESPREAD ATTACKS ON HUNDREDS OF US-PUPPET MILITARY TARGETS

- ⊙ Tens of thousands of U.S., puppet and mercenary casualties.
- ⊙ *About 1,000 mechanised vehicles destroyed or damaged in well-laid ambushes between June 6 and June 24.*
- ⊙ The enemy drawn into the Pleican area (Ben Het) encircled and hard pressed on all sides: 1,600 U.S.-puppet troops wiped out between June 6 and June 24.
- ⊙ *U.S. 11th Armoured Cavalry Regiment badly hit in Hon Quan, north of Saigon.*

North Viet Nam

The 3,300th American plane was downed in Ha Tay province on July 1, 1969

IF, on the political front, June was dramatically marked by the formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, it was no less so on the military front by PLAF exploits.

During the month, 2 waves of large-scale actions were mounted, on the nights of June 5 and June 18, well-coordinated, sustained for days and conducted with an admirable timing on vast theatres of war stretching over thousands of square kilometres.

Hundreds of enemy targets suffered heavy losses from ground or artillery attacks, or both, and many of them were hit several times in a short time, including the most important ones such as General Abrams's Forward Command at Phu Bai and the H.Q. of the US 101st Airborne Division, south-west of Hue, the H.Q. of puppet Division 2 at Quang Ngai, those of the puppet 2nd Army Corps and 2nd Joint Ranger Force at Pleiku, of the US First Infantry Division at Lai Khe, of the US First Air Cavalry Division at Phuoc Vinh, of the US 9th Infantry Division at Dong Tam, the radar centre at Phu Lam, in Saigon's 6th precinct, and at Mount Ba Den, near Tay Ninh, and the air and naval bases at Tan Son Nhat (Saigon), Da Nang, Kontum, Dong Ha, etc...

A second highlight of PLAF June attacks is incontestably the series of ambushes on enemy key land routes, especially in the following 3 sectors: Hon Quan and its surrounding areas (Binh Long province), some 100 km north of Saigon, Highway No.14 in the Pleiku-Kontum-Dakto area and its branch-road on Plei Cau (Ben Het), and Highway No.19 in the Mang Yang Pass area, 45km east of Pleiku.

First reports on the results of some 40 ambushes on enemy road convoys between June 6 and June 24 give the impressive figure of 1,000 trucks, tanks and armoured troop carriers destroyed or heavily damaged. If the vehicles put out of action during ground and artillery attacks on enemy encampments and positions are included, the losses exceed the 1,500 mark.

It is interesting to note that the U.S. 11th Armoured Cavalry Regiment, decimated during Operation *Junction City* which reverse had sealed off the fate of Westmoreland's 2nd dry-season counter-offensive in Feb. 1967, was this time hard hit in the Hon Quan area. Between June 6 and June 8, the PLAF put out of action nearly 300 vehicles and 900 men of this U.S. unit.

Another striking feature in June was the prolonged siege on the U.S. Special Forces camp at Plei Can (called Ben Het by the Western press). Since May 7 this camp situated about 20 km from Dakto to the west, and 85 km from Da Nang to the south-southwest, had been experiencing the tribulations of the entrenched camp of Khe Sanh a year ago. Pounded daily, with all attempted sallies beaten back and ground reinforcements intercepted with heavy losses, the garrison saw its forces dwindle everyday and its morale drop to the lowest ebb in spite of an almost unending deluge of bombs and shells poured down by the U.S. strategic and tactical aircraft and artillery. Caught in the trap, the enemy command had to sustain an extremely costly battle. In the 19-day period (from June 6 to June 24) the U.S.-puppet forces lost, 1,600 men, 41 planes and helicopters, including 5 huge cargo planes, shot down 183 vehicles including 133 tanks and armoured cars destroyed, to cannons and heavy mortars rendered unserviceable and 11 ammo and fuel depots burnt down.

Many major annihilation actions were also successfully staged in June by the patriots. In Tay Ninh and

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North Viet Nam's 5th lunar month rice harvest completed.
Photo: *on the drying yard of the Son Ha agricultural coop, Hai Hau district, Nam Ha province.*

Mr. Nixon's Useless Search for "Similarity"

AT the 23rd session of the Paris Conference, Mr. Cabot Lodge declared he would continue the efforts launched since the 18th session to find "common grounds" between America's and Vietnamese positions. There are, he said, not a few "similarities" concerning questions of principle, such as respect for the 1954 Geneva Agreements, the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, the reunification of Viet Nam, etc... To back his reasoning, he quoted several statements of President Nixon. However when it came to business of paramount importance, which is the key to the solution of the whole Viet Nam problem, the Washington envoy had to admit a fundamental difference between the opposing viewpoints: Will the United States be agreeable to withdrawing its troops without imposing any condition? Should the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration be maintained or replaced?

One cannot help wondering, in such conditions, whether the U.S. assertion of the alleged existence of "similarities" concerning questions of principle correspond to any real facts. A more detailed survey of both sides' positions will give evidence to the contrary.

FIRST of all, there is the conception of the origin of the Viet Nam war. Everyone knows that the US imperialists had long been coveting Viet Nam and that they were siding with the French colonialists in the 1945-1954 "dirty war" with the unavowed aim of eventually supplanting the latter. After North Viet Nam was completely liberated, they concentrated their colonialist efforts on the South, drove out the Frenchmen from there and set up their rule by the agency of a government on their payroll. Faced with the resistance of South Viet Nam's popular and patriotic forces, they dispatched their troops there and went to the length of extending their aggression to the North. To cover these doings which were bluntly cynical, they cooked up the "South Viet Nam's aggression against the South" myth.

On the strength of this fabrication, the U.S. rulers are now refusing to withdraw simply and solely their aggressor troops from South Viet Nam, which pull-out would immediately help restore peace. They want any troop withdrawal from South Viet Nam to be "mutual". The NFL, proceeding from the principle of respect for the Vietnamese people's national rights, including their right to resist foreign aggression, advocates, in its 10-point overall solution, a clear distinction between the problem of U.S. troops which must be brought home unconditionally, and that of Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam which will be settled by Vietnamese parties concerned. This suggestion of the NFL, prompted by both common sense and good will, does not please Washington which persists in putting on an equal footing the aggressors and those who defend themselves against aggression.

The people in the White House are trumpeting that they also respect the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination. Mr. Nixon has on many occasions referred to the latter's "free choice" and come out against any "intention of imposing any sort of governments upon the people of Viet Nam". But, as this was stressed by the American Lawyers' Committee for a Policy toward Viet Nam at the Stockholm Emergency Action Conference for Viet Nam, "the Thieu-Ky regime which is a military dictatorship propped up by U.S. power, despised by most Vietnamese and notoriously corrupt.. was 'imposed' upon South Viet Nam by the United States and is maintained in power by American bayonets"; consequently, the above statement of Mr. Nixon was "hypocritical to the extreme".

This Thieu-Ky-Huong clique whose removal is being urged by South Viet Nam's popular masses, is obstinately kept in office by Washington under the pretext that it was the "legal and constitutional government" of South Viet Nam. However, unless Mr. Nixon has a too short memory, he should remember that this very "legality" and "constitutionality" have been denied by none other than Nguyen Cao Ky, the Saigon "Vice-President" himself who once spoke in the following terms of the elections returning him to power: "The elections here have been a loss of time and money. They are a joke. They have served to install a regime that has nothing in common with the people — a useless, corrupt regime".

In his May 14 speech, Mr. Nixon mentioned in ambiguous terms eventual elections in South Viet Nam, to be "held under agreed procedures", but also insisted that the South Vietnamese patriots accept "private talks" with the Thieu-Ky-Huong regime. That means he wanted to rule out completely slighted by Mr. Nixon whose intention is quite clear: to persist in achieving U.S. neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam through a government more or less under Washington's sway. Consequently, orders have been given by the U.S. President on the one hand to Mr. Cabot Lodge in Paris, who has been exerting himself to demand a "mutual troop withdrawal" and to support "private contacts" between Nguyen Van Thieu and the NFL (now PRG) leaders, and on the other to General Abrams in South Viet Nam to apply "maximum military pressure" with a view to securing a "position of strength" for the U.S. in negotiations and political bargaining.

In his May 14 speech, Mr. Nixon defined as follows his political line as regards Viet Nam: "Our fighting men are not going to be worn down, our negotiators are not going to be talked down, our allies are not going to be let down". This formula is perhaps the most faithful reflection of the threefold aspect of Mr. Nixon's obduracy in the battlefield, at the Paris Conference, and in Saigon.

It is difficult to reconcile this double-dealing with an alleged existence of "similarities" between American and Vietnamese positions, as Mr. Cabot Lodge claimed, neither can it justify "the hopes" expressed by Mr. Nixon for some progress of the Paris Conference in a few months to come.

Washington has been trying visibly to create an atmosphere of artificial optimism. It has no other aim than placating a completely hostile public opinion.

24th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (July 3, 1969)

VIET NAM PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES DENOUNCE U.S. WAR INTENSIFICATION

AT the 24th session of the Paris Conference, Mr. Ha Van Lau, on behalf of the DRVN Delegation, strongly denounced US attempt to deceive public opinion by claiming that it was looking for "similarities" in American and Vietnamese positions, whereas it had been holding on to its neo colonialist policy of aggression, reacting negatively to all constructive proposals of the South Viet Nam PRG and the DRVN. Clinging to the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique of puppets, it had been opposing the formation of a provisional coalition government which was urged by all the South Vietnamese people.

The DRVN envoy produced irrefutable evidence of US step-up of the war in both zones. In the first 6 months of 1969, it boosted the number of spy missions by US aircraft from 450 (in January) to 830 (in June) and carried out 20 B52 bombings, dropping 2,000 tons of bombs on many populated areas in the DRVN. At his June 19 press conference, President Nixon endeavoured to present US redoubled military activities as mere reactions to the "actions of the other side", but his allegation was given the lie by many American politicians including Mr. Averell Harriman.

The DRVN representative concluded that in fact the U.S. continued to advocate war intensification as a means to secure a position of strength in the battlefield and at the conference table, and the Saigon puppets were the champions of the continuation of the war to which they owed their survival. The whole world demanded that the Nixon Aministration take some "new initiative" in response to the NFL offer contained in its 10 points, Mr. Ha Van Lau said, but as the US government refused to do so, it must bear full responsibility for the stagnation of the Paris Conference.

At the same meeting, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, representative of the South Viet Nam PRG, also provided facts to prove that the US had been escalating the war: it doubled the number of "sweeps" and raised the volume of bombs dropped on South Viet Nam to the record figure of 130,000 tons per month. To pit the Vietnamese against Vietnamese with a view to "Vietnamizing" the war, the US has instigated their Saigon strawmen to press even youngsters of 16-17 years of age and men of 45-50 into the puppet army which will swell to 900,000 men by the end of the year.

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh expressed the firm resolve of the South Vietnamese people led by the NFL and the PRG to carry on their struggle — so long as the US persists in pursuing and pushing up its aggressive war — until they have wrested back genuine independence and freedom.

On the occasion of July 4:

3 Americans Released

IN implementation of the DRVN Government's policy of humanitarianism and leniency, the General Political Department of the Viet Nam People's Army has taken the following decision in connection with the Independence Day of the United States:

— to release 3 Americans captured in North Viet Nam.

— to authorize other US personnel captured in North Viet Nam to receive parcels from their families.

NEW U.S. BOMBINGS AGAINST NORTH VIET NAM

(Text of DRVN Foreign Ministry spokesman' July 1 Statement)

IN five consecutive days ending June 29, 1969, US aircraft of various kinds dropped demolition, fragmentation, and time bombs, and fired rockets on Huong Lap commune in the northern part of the demilitarized zone, and many areas in the western part of Tuyen Hoa district, Quang Binh province, and in Nghi Loc and Hung Nguyen districts, Nghe An province.

More seriously still, on June 25 and 27, formations of B52 strategic bombers attacked Huong Lap commune in the northern part of the demilitarized zone.

The bombings and strafings caused heavy losses in lives and property to the local people.

The DRVN Government strongly denounced these acts of war and demands that the U.S. stop at once all acts of encroachment upon the sovereignty, and threats to the security of the DRVN.

SUMMER RICE HARVEST IN AN UPLAND VILLAGE

AS in all other parts of North Viet Nam, the upland village of Nhan Nghia, Lac Son district, Hoa Binh province, is all in a bustle bringing in its Summer rice crop. Groups of harvesters are busy at work while chatting merrily. Convoys of carts loaded with rice stream back from the ricefields to the co-ops yards. Rice separators and rice-husking machines operate in full gear from dawn till mid-night, yet there remain stacks of rice to get through. Most of the land here has been put under summer rice, a strain of rice which requires sophisticated technics and minute care but gives a rather high yield. Estimates from three-quarters of the total acreage where harvesting has been completed show an over 3-ton average output per hectare. Some plots give as many as 5 tons per hectare.

While harvesting is still underway, ploughing teams are already getting ready. The fields are to be cultivated all the year round. In 1968, the average rice yield was 4.9 tons per hectare. This year, it is expected to reach 5.5 tons. In particular, Brigade 9 of the Muong Va co-op, which has just been recognized by the government as a "Socialist Labour Brigade", has decided to raise to 8 tons per hectare this year, its last year's 6.9 ton record.

Whereas after liberation (1954) the State had to sell dozens of tons of rice to Nhan Nghia annually to ensure adequate rations to its inhabitants, last year the village was already in a position to supply the front-line with 150 tons of surplus rice and a large quantity of other farm products. Abundant rice helps develop animal husbandry. On an average, 2 pigs (each from 40 kilos upward) are being raised for every cultivated hectare of land. Last year, villagers sold more than 4 tons of meat to the State. Apart from food and foodstuffs, the family income also consists of cash. In 1968, each peasant could put an average 200 dong in the anti-U.S. savings funds for national salvation.

NHAN NGHIA has obtained these successes after years of strenuous efforts: by acquiring new concepts and ideas, in doing away with the old and backward farming methods, getting machinery and improved tools and introducing collective and scientific methods of work.

For generations agricultural hydraulics had been completely ignored by the local inhabitants. Formerly, everything depended on Nature. Rain water from the mountains swept over the ricefields, carried away manure and humus and deposited alkalin substances in low-lying fields On the other hand, drought hit the area in the dry season. After having seen the benefit of hydraulics and through ideological agitation, the villagers confident of collective strength, started developing hydraulic works. Today, Nhan Nghia has a comprehensive hydraulic network with 44 irrigation and drainage canals of a total length of 23.5 kilometres and 8 dams to store water for the whole of its ricefields already turned into a vast checkerboard. Sesbania grows luxuriantly on the tiny dikes crisscrossing the fields. Irrigation and drainage can be done on the basis of good control of water in three-quarters of the cultivated areas. By the end of this year, an irrigation and hydro-electric project with a capacity of 20 Kw will have been completed, ensuring irrigation and drainage for another 30 hectares of land and at the same time supplying electric power for more than half of the number of families in the village and helping the prompt husking and threshing of rice for the whole village.

Working for the change of the rice strain has also been much of a hard job. For years, the Muong minority people in Nhan Nghia village used to grow a variety of glutinous rice which has degraded and could yield only 1.7 or 1.8 tons per hectare for a single crop. With the sights and sounds stored up during a visit to Muong Tom, a nearby front-rank co-op, cadres decided to introduce a variety of ordinary rice with an output twice higher than the other variety. They asked technical groups to test grow it on one or 2 hectares at each co-op.

The new variety of rice, of course, requires new conditions and techniques. The soil must be well prepared and in this connection, the fields should be ploughed and harrowed at least 4 or 5 times and then flattened out. The seeds must be saturated with 40°C water and thinly sown at half the rate for the old seeds. Different kinds of fertilizers are needed and its quantity must be couple. The rice seedlings must be transplanted in straight rows and the tufts kept at a 20x15 cm interval (formerly 40x50cm). Tending, manuring, irrigating and combating insects must be carried out in accordance with new technical rules and the needs of the growth and development of the rice plants. Everything tends to change completely. It is really a hard job. Some people sarcastically remarked, "They give greater care to rice than to the babies. Will they get through with that lot of work, or shall we have straw to eat?".

The very first attempts were successful: the new variety of rice brought in 4.2 tons per hectare, more than double the output of ricefields put under the former variety. Encouraged by these initial results, the members of technical groups soon become instructors for all villagers. Now the old farming methods together with the variety of glutinous rice has given way, totally, to the new farm techniques and the variety of ordinary rice in all the 4 co-ops in Nhan Nghia. Among the factors of these successes stand out the unity and mutual assistance between the Muong and the Kinh (Vietnamese proper. Ed) people living in the village. In 1961, in implementation of the policy of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and DRVN Government concerning the redistribution of the population between the delta and the upland regions, 354 Muong families at Nhan Nghia village gave a hearty welcome to 65 families of the Kinh people from the coastal province of Nam Ha voluntarily moving there to take part in the economic construction and development in the uplands. Production and life experiences of the two regions make common

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News in Brief

● At the end of the academic year 1968-1969 a summing up of scientific researches carried out by Hanoi colleges showed that the Polytechnic School had completed 70 subjects and the Civil Engineering School 103.

● The harvesting of the Spring-Summer rice crop has been completed. The North Vietnamese farmers are busy preparing the Autumn-Winter crop. Within five days, the tractor teams of Nghe An province had finished ploughing 5,000 hectares of ricefields. Ha Tinh province has commissioned 7 hydraulic works with a capacity of 7 million cubic metres of water. Besides 134 km of irrigation ditches have been dug. A draining work to save 2,000 hectares of ricefield from flood is nearing completion in Ninh Binh province.

● Thai Binh province has built a 500 km long electric network with hundreds of transformation stations. Two hundred electricians have been trained for the agricultural service.

Little schoolgirls

GLIMPSE of the 1968-1969 school year

THE school-year 1968-1969, the fourth year of resistance to U.S. aggression and for national salvation, was the first year in the three-year plan (1968-1970) of the educational branch. Though the American aggressors had declared the unconditional halt of their raids on North Viet Nam, they still mounted attacks on many places of the North, especially in the province of Quang Binh and in Vinh Linh area. On April 23, 1969 American planes rocketed Khanh Thanh primary school, Yen Thanh district, Nghe An province, inflicting many casualties upon the pupils. In face of this situation, 12,000 general education schools continued to operate at their evacuation sites, as in previous years.

In the last school-year, the number of pupils continued to rise: 4,160,312 for the general education schools, or an increase of 13 per cent over the school-year 1967-1968 and of 55 per cent over 1965-1966, the first year of the U.S. war of destruction in the North. Pre-school class enrolment amounted to 1,600,312 pupils, teachers' schools which numbered 153 were attended by 75,000 students. If over one million adults attending complementary educational classes were added, the pupil body in the North totals 7 million out of a population of 17 million souls.

In 1968-1969, the quality of education was also improved. The good teachers commended by President Ho Chi Minh increased 15 per cent compared with last year, and 1 800 school children out of 2.5 million pupils received the "Uncle Ho's sweet niece or nephew" award and badges with his effigy. The government of the DRVN recognized 642 educational establishments as "socialist labour" units and 2,805 others as vanguard schools. Good examination papers were produced by pupils of the 7th and 10th forms who excelled in literature and mathematics and collective awards were more numerous than in the last school-year. From 80 to 95 per cent of pupils passed end-of-year examinations.

The striking feature of the last school-year was the efforts made to raise the quality of education. The teachers' colleges ran seminars on scientific researches and the new teaching methods. Notable improvement was recorded by such general education schools as Bac Ly (Nam Ha province), Vinh Sieu, An Tien (Hai Phong), Nam Lien (Nghe An province) and Cam Binh (Ha Tinh province) in the "teach well and learn well" emulation movement and for the overall improvement of quality.

First Anniversary of the World Conference of Lawyers for Viet Nam

(Grenoble, July 6 to 10, 1968)

Invisible but Real and Efficacious Force!

by NGUYEN VAN LUU

Lawyer, Member of the Viet Nam Lawyers' Association Executive Committee, Member of the DRVN Delegation to the Grenoble Conference

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRENOBLE DECLARATION

IT (the Conference) recognizes that the United States war in Viet Nam is a further development of the various types of intervention which have taken place in Viet Nam both before and after 1954, in particular through the concoction of what is called the "Government of the Republic of Viet Nam". This "Government" has served as a tool for foreign domination and military operations designed to enslave South Viet Nam and transform the country into a new-type colony and an American springboard for the extension of operations to the North, and to set up a "State" separated from the rest of the Vietnamese nation.

It affirms that such a war is a war of aggression, a crime against the independence and existence of the Vietnamese people and a form of neo-colonialist oppression, and that consequently the Viet Nam of both the south and the north are legally acting in self-defence.

This war violates the basic principles of contemporary international law, and in particular the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of nations, the right of peoples to choose their own political, economic and social systems, the prohibition of the use of force in international relations, as well as the right of self-determination and the general rules which govern mankind.

It is a violation of the 1954 Geneva Accords, which unequivocally affirm the unity and integrity of the Vietnamese nation and are inspired by these principles of international law.

EXCERPTS FROM THE SECOND COMMISSION RESOLUTION ON "SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW NFL PROGRAMME"

THE national independence of the Vietnamese people, proclaimed on September 2, 1945, was recognized by France the following year, and internationally ratified in the Geneva Accords of 1954. The unity of the country was also recognized, and elections were due to be held in July 1956 throughout the whole country...

The artificial and unilateral attribution of a separate national jurisdiction to a government of the South, based exclusively on the material, political and military support of the United States, has been a violation of the right of the Vietnamese people to genuine self-determination...

Over the greater part of the Vietnamese territory, now liberated from foreign inteference, an effective administration has been assured by the NFL, whose military successes in the face of an enemy with substantial material resources can only be explained by the whole-hearted cooperation and support of the population. This support increases daily in a more and more spectacular fashion, and even extends to sectors still under the control of the invader. The NFL, which is composed of a very varied assemblage of political forces, but united in the same ardour to maintain the independence of their country, fulfils the criteria of an effective, representative and independent government...

The Vietnamese people possesses the same right as other nations to free choice and self-determination without foreign interference. Any restrictions on the full enjoyment of this right can only be regarded as an offence, and a threat to the exercise of these same rights by all other nations.

The only way to achieve full respect for the right of the Vietnamese people to self-determination is the ending of the war of aggression which denies this right, the withdrawal of the American forces and those of their foreign auxiliaries, and the abolition of foreign military bases, thus finally enabling the people of South Viet Nam to settle their own affairs, in the free enjoyment of their fundamental national rights, without foreign interference.

A DATE, AN UPSHOT

A year ago, while the Paris official talks for the ascertaining of the permanent and unconditional cessation of all U.S. bombings and acts of war against the DRVN were marking time as a result of the aggressive obstinacy of the U.S. Government, in Grenoble, a beautiful and hospitable city on the Alps (France), was held from July 6 to 10, 1968 the World Conference of Lawyers for Viet Nam, attended by nearly 150 renowned lawyers coming from 35 countries and "devoted to a legal analysis of the situation created by the war the United States is waging against the Vietnamese people, and the activities which lawyers can undertake to enlighten international and American public opinion on the subject."

The Conference was a landmark in the evolution of legal conscience of progressive mankind. The Grenoble Declaration and Appeal and the Commission Resolutions, all submitted to democratic and conscientious, I should add meticulous, consideration and endorsement by the closing plenary session, constituted precisely a verdict by history of U.S. neo-colonialist aggression in Viet Nam and recognition of the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people fighting against this aggression.

It is undeniable that to arrive at such terse conclusions which shine with the glow of historical truth in Viet Nam and which concurrently compel approval as a result of the pressure of the conscience of progressive mankind they represent, and to censure the American aggressors and stimulate the Vietnamese people' strength in the legitimate defence of their sacred rights, the world progressive lawyers had had to follow step by step, with conscience and militant sympathy, the long, hard and heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people against the U.S. aggressors since 1954. The facts and principles consecrated in the Grenoble Charter are the result of long years of which resolutions by the International Association of Democratic Lawyers on Viet Nam, of the voluminous proceedings of the two sessions of the Bertrand Russell Tribunal — a tribunal unique in the history of law since time immemorial — and of so many other works and untiring and dedicated activities of lawyers from all continents, from Tokyo to Havana, from Asia to America, concerting their actions with the heroic and persevering struggle of peoples throughout the world, including the U.S. people, against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam and in support of the Vietnamese people.

A special and detailed study would show that Grenoble represents the upshot of the evolution of the interpretation of history of aggression in Viet Nam, the evolution of conceptions of U.S. aggression there, of legal qualification of U.S. crimes of aggression and genocide in Viet Nam, of the appraisal of the principle of self-determination for the Vietnamese people, of the genuine representativeness of the NFL, etc.

The speeches of American lawyers, especially the "Impressions of a visit to Hanoi", imparted to the Conference by Mr. Richard A. Falk, professor of International Law at Princeton University, have testified to the clear evolution of the thought of American lawyers in the "Lawyers' Committee on American Policy towards Viet Nam" since their 1962 Memorandum of Law.

Without a watchful and perspicacious militant conscience, without an heroism supported by the feeling that one is fighting for a good cause, for the independence and freedom of nations (and, as far as our friends the American lawyers are concerned, without a generous and lofty patriotism and a passionate love for this "new order of the world" referred to by Mr. Falk), and without a scientific method full of care for historic and social facts, no lawyer in the world can attain the light of the Grenoble Charter.

PART OF THE FORCE OF LAW IN A MEANINGFUL BALANCE-SHEET

FROM July 1968 to July 1969, the world progressive lawyers could acclaim with elation a series of new resounding successes scored by the Vietnamese people in their struggle against U.S. aggression, which resulted from a new drive of onsets and sacrifices in the battlefield and a new wave of warm and efficient support from the world peoples.

Those were gains of a just cause, that is of law, of genuine law of course, not of so-called law perverted and wrested by the U.S. government to justify, even at this hour, its war of aggression in South Viet Nam.

At Grenoble, the world progressive lawyers declared: "Since the bombing of North Viet Nam is flagrantly illegal there can be no justification for exacting a "quid pro quo" for their unconditional termination. The termination of the bombing would not represent a concession. A concession presupposes that a party gives up something to which it is entitled. The bombing of North Viet Nam by the United States being illegal, the termination of U.S. bombing merely constituted a belated willingness to comply with a fundamental rule in international law. North Viet Nam is entitled to such compliance, and cannot be expected to give up anything in exchange." Hardly had three months elapsed since this declaration when the U.S. government was forced to cease unconditionally its bombings of the DRVN!

And what is the NFL 10-point overall solution if not a practical application by the NFL of principles endorsed by the Grenoble Charter? The NFL was prompted by its legitimacy and goodwill to find a most righteous solution to the problem of troops, military personnel, arms and war matériel of the U.S. and other foreign countries of the U.S. camp which must be withdrawn totally without any condition

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CHEMICAL GENOCIDE STEPPED UP BY THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION

by DO XUAN SANG

AP reported on June 17 from Washington that Nixon had given orders to re-examine U.S. policy on bacteriological and chemical weapons. According to R.L. Ziegler, the President's press secretary, the White House would revise its official position with regard to the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

Belated humanitarianism? No, hypocrisy and gross impudence! One knows that since the coming to power of the new Republican administration, chemical warfare has considerably been stepped up in South Viet Nam. At the Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam from May 16 to 18, 1969, JB Neilands, professor of biochemistry at Berkeley University, California, brought in on this subject a damning verdict with the following conclusions:

"1. By the massive and unrestrained use of herbicides and anti-personnel gases in Viet Nam, the U.S. is in violation of numerous international laws, including those pertaining to genocide.

"2. The land of Viet Nam in the South has been drenched with herbicides on a scale unprecedented in history. Certain of the agents used, i.e. cacodylic acid and picloram, have not and would not be approved for similar use in the U.S. No one can forecast what effect these herbicides will have on the human population, the total ecology and the future agricultural productivity of the soil.

"3. By maiming and killing civilians, most of whom are children under five, pregnant and lactating women, the aged and infirm, with application of anti-personnel gases in confined space, the U.S. is guilty of crimes against humanity."

Let us point out that cacodylic acid is a by-product of arsenic and is also called dimethyl-arsenic acid. Picloram is picolinic acid amino-4 trichloro 3-5-6. These two products are most toxic, even in weak doses.

The use by the Nixon administration of such products banned in the U.S. and many other countries, trenchantly give the lie to the U.S. thesis according to which the chemical products sprayed by American aircraft in South Viet Nam would only be "substances similar to the herbicide used in agriculture in almost all countries in the world." (*Voice of America*, March 10, 1963).

To give an idea of the scope of the damage caused, J.B Neilands has produced the following figures published in the March 3, 1969 issue of the *Guardian*:

Year	Areas hit	Crops destroyed	Total areas affected
1967	1,486,446 acres	221,312 acres	1,707,758 acres
1968	1,297,244 —	8,064 —	1,305,308

No figure has been available for this year as yet. Prof E.W. Pfeiffer, of the Institute of Zoology at Montana University, Executive Secretary of the (American) Congress of Scientists on Chemical and Biological Warfare presided over by J.B. Neilands, who visited South Viet Nam from March 17 to April 1, 1969, was allowed to board an aircraft going on a defoliation mission. He said that should the Americans have at their disposal a sufficient quantity of material, the whole country would have been defoliated.

This confirms the May 20, 1969 communiqué of the Committee to Denounce War Crimes of U.S. Imperialists and their Puppets in South Viet Nam on a new escalation of the chemical warfare in South Viet Nam since the beginning of 1969.

From the juridical point of view, the American government is co-signatory to the Protocol on the prohibition of the use in war of asphyxiating and toxic gases and similar products and bacteriological means, signed in Geneva on June 17, 1925, but the American Senate has so far not yet ratified it. Such an attitude shows that the American rulers do not at all want to give up chemical and bacteriological warfare. In fact they actively prepare it and South Viet Nam is precisely the testing ground for U.S. bacteriological and chemical weapons.

Though not having ratified the 1925 Geneva Protocol, the U.S. is always bound by it, because this protocol has not created a new right, but only confirmed a traditional practice of international law banning the use of poisons, asphyxiating and toxic gases; or the like, as well as all liquids, matters or similar products (see chiefly the US-German Peace Treaty of August 25, 1921 and the Washington Treaty of February 6, 1922 duly signed and ratified by the United States).

That is why the B. Russell International Tribunal on U.S. war crimes has declared the U.S. guilty of crimes against mankind and of genocide for having used

(Continued page 7)

Invisible but Real...

(Continued from page 4)

whatsoever, while the question of the Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam will be resolved by the Vietnamese parties concerned among themselves. Legitimacy and goodwill also helped the NFL devise a solution most suitable to the Viet Nam situation as far as a provisional coalition government is concerned, which government will be set up through negotiations governed by the principle of equality, democracy and mutual respect, between the political forces representing the various social strata and political tendencies in South Viet Nam that stand for peace, independence and neutrality, including those persons who, for political reasons, have to take up residence abroad.

Confronted with this beacon of NFL legitimacy and goodwill, the U.S. government and its puppets, driven to the wall, were unmasked, trembling with impotence, and caught guilty of using false law to violate genuine law by floating its "mutual withdrawal of non-South Vietnamese troops" formula to put on the same footing the aggressor and the Vietnamese people resisting aggression, and the "respect of the South Vietnamese people's free choice" formula (which "free choice" is to be made under the Thieu-Ky Huong puppet government) to force, in the name of spurious law, the 14 million South Vietnamese to live under a warlike and dictatorial regime sold out to the Yankees.

Another achievement of the force of law is this historical development in the life of the Vietnamese people, namely the establishment of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, because the setting up of a revolutionary State power in South Viet Nam constitutes precisely a further development of the independence, effectiveness and representativeness of the NFL recognized by the Grenoble Charter, and a more forceful assertion of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, which is fully sanctioned in the said Charter.

Lastly, the report of progress would not be complete if one fails to mention growing draft-dodging drive, especially in recent months, of young Americans not only in the United States but also in American bases in Europe, which is the clear repercussion and result of the Fourth Commission Resolution of the Grenoble Conference on "The Grounds in Law for a Refusal to Take Part in a War of Aggression."

"No individual consequently is bound to obey any government which orders him to commit an act which constitutes an international crime. This is explicitly recognized in the military code of a number of states, including the United States of America."

There is no nobler joy for lawyers and the world progressives than seeing legal principles, for which one has been fighting ever since taking side with the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, now gradually coming into force, as such a quick rate in a relatively short time, and speeding up the aggressive forces' confusion and collapse.

The force of law, of the just cause, invisible, immaterial, is the strength of the progressive conscience of peoples. It stems from the experience of peoples, and from law and ethics as well. It condenses and distils the essence of the history of the future. In so far as law promotes the future, it constitutes one of the essential motive forces that can drive the peoples forward. The process of the materialization of this strength in the dialectics of life, that is the dialectics of struggle and revolution, has of course to go through the forms of the material, economic, military and political forces of the masses and requires a sound strategic direction, line and art which are certainly not to be denied to the South Viet Nam patriots and revolutionaries.

THE STRUGGLE GOES ON TOWARD NEW VICTORIES

AT the present juncture, it is of vital importance to realize that the Nixon administration is obdurately pursuing its aggressive policy towards Viet Nam, that it is cherishing an illusion to negotiate from a "position of strength" refusing to withdraw totally from South Viet Nam U.S. and satellite forces and trying to maintain the puppet Thieu-Ky-Huong regime as a tool for the achievement of U.S. neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam.

The demands contained in the Grenoble Appeal, namely "the withdrawal of all U.S. and allied forces from South Vietnamese territory" and "the acceptance of the principle of national self-determination in settling the political future of South Viet Nam without foreign interference" have not been met.

As far as we Vietnamese people are concerned, we have adopted a clear course of action backed by the support from the world progressive peoples, we have won considerable successes and we are certainly advancing toward even more substantial ones. We have shown good will and good faith at the Paris Conference. If U.S. imperialists refuse to draw any lesson from their failure and persist in their warlike and colonialist position, our armed forces and people are resolved militarily as much to step up our sacred fight until "the Yanks quit and the puppets topple," as our President Ho Chi Minh has said.

We are convinced that progressive lawyers all over the world, on the strength of resounding victories scored in the course of a year after Grenoble, will launch together with our people a new wave of actions until final victory. We are very happy to hear the strong and eloquent voices of our friends the American Lawyers at the Emergency Action Conference in Stockholm from May 16 to 18, 1969, in their "Critique of the Nixon and NFL approaches to Peace in Viet Nam":

"The Nixon approach is predicated on the arrogant premise of negotiating "from strength". Its basic philosophy is revealed in the grotesque statement: "We have to demonstrate... that confrontation with the United States is costly and unrewarding". Mr. Nixon has not been chosen to serve as God or the Almighty Judge of the people of the world. This brazen philosophy is reminiscent of the contemptuous doctrine that "might makes right".

"The arrogance underlying the Nixon approach is coupled with the threat of military escalation on the line: "... I must make clear, in all candor, that if the needless suffering continues, this will affect other decisions".

"The bully who rains death from the skies from his B.52 which cannot be reached by the guerilla's rifle speaks of "needless suffering."

"It is an historical fact that American intervention in Viet Nam was, from the beginning, a blatant violation of the 1954 Geneva Accords, which prohibited the introduction of foreign troops and armament into Viet Nam, and a gross violation of established international law and of the cardinal principles of the United Nations Charter. Hence, the withdrawal of American troops from Viet Nam cannot be deemed a concession; rather it would be a belated compliance with international law. The Nixon proposal cannot be squared with international law. The NFL proposal is in full accord with international law. The assailant who breaks into a stranger's home cannot demand that the occupant simultaneously leave the home as a condition for his departure (...) As intruders and as the only foreigners in South Viet Nam, the US and its allies have nothing to negotiate but the rate and manner of their withdrawal. The withdrawal of American troops would return the future of Viet Nam to the Vietnamese to where it belongs."

Let new voices in the world of law be raised for the prompt cessation by the US government of its aggression in Viet Nam and US respect of the Vietnamese people's freedom to settle themselves their own affairs along the line of the NFL ten points.

News from LAOS

THE ENEMY DULY PUNISHED IN LAOS

(Khao San Pathet Lao *News Agency's June 30, 1969 commentary on the recent Muong Sui victory)*

BEATING off the enemy's nibbling attacks on the free zone in Xieng Khuang province, the Laotian patriotic forces dealt on June 24 a crippling blow at the rightist army stationed at Muong Sui 58 km northwest of the provincial capital.

They have retaken control of this area after putting out of action hundreds of enemy troops (*) and helped several units of the "neutralist army" under the command of Kong Le rise up and capture many positions in the base. This punitive blow has greatly inspired the Laotian people, particularly the people in the Xieng Khuang free area who have not forgotten the barbarous crimes committed by the enemy during the recent nibbling attacks.

As everyone knows, the U.S. and its stooges, capitalizing on Phouma's betrayal, had since 1969 sent many regiment-sized units to occupy the Plain of Jars under the control of the Laotian Patriotic Front and the patriotic neutralist forces. After this attack was thwarted, the enemy strove to turn Muong Sui into a staging base for other nibbling operations against the Xieng Khuang liberated zone. Muong Sui soon became a big entrenched camp provided with an airfield and several artillery sites and defended by a major force of Phouma's self-styled "neutralist army" directly officered by U.S. and Thailand "advisers".

From this base, the enemy had since 1969 launched 1 attacks against Phoukout Hill, an important outpost of the patriots in Xieng Khuang, frequently bombarded adjacent areas and smuggled a good number of bandits and commandos into the free zone for sabotage activity.

The U.S. imperialists have also used Muong Sui as a base for directing air strikes against the free zone.

Most recently, co-operating with other forces of the rightist army, Souvanna Phouma mustered his troops in Muong Sui for a large-scale nibbling operation against Phoukhe area and Xieng Khuang town.

To bring their scheme to fruition, the U.S. and the Vientiane rulers had mercilessly suppressed any patriotic officers and men of the so called "neutralist army" who refused to be transformed into U.S. mercenaries.

As a reaction, when fighting erupted, many units of Phouma's "neutralist army" with the support of the patriotic armed forces, rose up and punished those who had betrayed them.

The Muong Sui victory, won through the harmonious combination of the patriots' action from outside and the mutiny of national-minded soldiers from inside, constituted a splendid feat of arms inaugurating the 1969 rainy season campaign.

It was also a forceful expression of the resolve of the Laotian patriotic armed forces and people to exercise their sacred right of self-defence and inflict punishment on enemy crimes right on the spot.

The U.S. imperialists and the rightist clique and Prince Souvanna Phouma must bear full responsibility for their acts of war.

(*) *After 4 days of fighting from June 24 to 27), the Laotian patriotic armed forces wiped out 600 enemy troops including 160 killed and 240 captured or surrendering. Five high ranking officers and many officers of lower grade were among the enemy casualties.*

LAOTIAN PATRIOTIC ARMED FORCES' MILITARY EXPLOITS IN 1968-69 DRY SEASON

In 200 days of battle, the Laotian patriotic armed forces:
- fought 1,368 battles,
- put out of action 12,000 enemy troops,
- seized 2,000 firearms of various types, 112 transmitters,
- destroyed or captured 103 military vehicles,
- downed or wrecked 284 aircraft,
- blew up 29 bridges.

The most substantial gains were recorded at:
- Pathi (Sam Neua province)
- Thateng (Saravane province)
- Nakhang (Sam Neua province)
- Xieng Khuang province

SOUTH VIET NAM PRG RECOGNISED BY MALI

THE Military Committee for National Liberation and the Government of the Republic of Mali have officially recognized the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

The decision was made public in a communiqué issued on June 28 by the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Mali.

The communique said that the recognition was a manifestation of the Malian people's support of the Vietnamese people's patriotic struggle to defend freedom, and also an expression of the Malian people's aspiration for peace and world security now being threatened in South-East Asia.

World Assembly for Peace Resolutely Supports Vietnamese People

ON June 21, 1969, the World Assembly for Peace opened in Berlin (GDR). It was attended by over 1,100 representatives of 56 international organisations and 320 organisations from 101 countries in all the 5 continents and many prominent figures of different social strata, political leanings and religious beliefs. The session of the first, after the opening speech. All delegates greeted with a standing and rousing ovation the Vietnamese representatives as they mounted the rostrum.

The Assembly heard reports by the Committees for the study of the problems of Viet Nam, European security, the Middle-East, anti-colonialism and disarmament.

The report by the Committee on Viet Nam commanded special attention. This Committee had held heated discussions and unanimously adopted a resolution on the juridical problem and US war crimes in Viet Nam, a separate resolution denouncing the criminality of the U.S. aggression and its brutalities in Viet Nam. It analysed the legality of the PRG of the RSVN in law, and called on the world public to condemn the U.S. to struggle vigorously for an end to US aggression and savage crimes in Viet Nam, and for the official recognition of the PRG of the RSVN. The Sub-Committee for the study of actions in support of the Vietnamese people suggested concrete measures designed to step up the international movement for support and assistance to the Vietnamese people in the moral, political and material fields.

The whole assembly welcomed with a standing ovation and went solid for the *Resolution on Viet Nam* submitted by the Committee for the study of the Viet Nam problem.

The *Resolution on Viet Nam* sternly condemns the US administration's continued aggression in Viet Nam, violation of the sovereignty, and threats to the security of the DRVN, obstinate sticking to the puppet Thieu-Ky-Huong administration and stepped up the war of aggression in South Viet Nam. The World Assembly for Peace warmly hails the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and supports the 10-point overall solution to the Viet Nam problem put forward by the South Viet Nam NFL. The Assembly calls on all peace forces and the world's people to increase their support for the just struggle of the Vietnamese people:

— to militate for the official recognition of the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam,

— to urge the US administration to begin serious talks at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam on the basis of the 10-point overall solution of the NFL,

— to pressure with more force the American administration to put an immediate end to the war of aggression in Viet Nam, to unconditionally withdraw all GI's and all troops of other foreign countries which belong to the American camp, to stop using the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration as an instrument of aggression, to leave the Vietnamese people to settle their own affairs without foreign interference,

— to support the Vietnamese people morally, politically and materially by means of various effective and lasting actions, especially on the occasion of July 20, 1969, the 15th anniversary of the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

PLAF JUNE SUCCESSES

(*Continued from page 1*)

BinhLong provinces, respectively northwest and north of Saigon, the 1st and 2nd Brigades of the US First Air cavalry were badly mauled and so were paratroop units of the puppet general reserve. On the night of June 5, at Ba Chiem, 300 GIs were killed or wounded, while near Hon Quan, at the technical center of a vast plantation turned into the H.Q. of Brigade 1, First Air Cavalry, 500 other GIs and 6 cannons and 30 vehicles were put out of action, and 12 helicopter gunships brought down.

On the night of June 8 in 2 battles near Tay Ninh, the PLAF virtually wrote off the charge puppet paratroop battalion 5 (200 casualties) at Go Noi, and levelled a US camp, killing or wounding 100 GIs and destroying 47 armoured cars at Bau Tram. On June 11, at Bau Sen (Tay Ninh province) 310 other GIs were wiped out while a US motorized column, ambushed North of Pleiku, lost 50 vehicles destroyed or damaged and 200 GIs killed or wounded.

On the night of June 12, at Tra Ton, 92 km east-northeast of Saigon, Battalion 1 of the US First Air Cavalry was knocked out (400 GIs casualties).

On the night of June 13, the operational H.Q. of Brigade 3, US 101st Airborne, near A Luoi, southwest of Hue, was overrun and the PLAF put 400 GIs out of action, and wrecked 5 105-mm and 155-mm howitzers.

On June 15, a 400-man puppet battalion was completely destroyed at Luong Phi, in the Mekong Delta.

On June 16, 17, and 19, in the Khe Giao area, northnortheast of Saigon, the patriots wiped out 2 battalions of puppet Division 18, killing, wounding or capturing 730 men and shooting down 10 choppers.

Mercenaries of US satellites were also badly trounced. A Thai battalion was wiped out on June 16 some 40 km east-northeast of Saigon.

On June 19, the general attacks of the PLAF in Tay Ninh city and its surrounding areas exacted in 24 hours an adverse toll of 1,300.

On June 20, the Hu Na camp, northeast of Saigon, was erased with 400 enemy casualties and 29 cannons and heavy mortars put out of action.

THOSE successes won through fierce fighting once again show the PLAF "very good form" and their increasing punch in the process of the fighting. The general anticipation is that they are in a position to firmly maintain the initiative gained years ago and to keep up their offensive as long as it is necessary until the aggressor is driven out. With the ever higher effectiveness they have been displaying these days, one can clearly foresee the serious losses they will inflict on the enemy if the latter persists in his aggressive designs.

The enemy is finding himself bogged down more than ever before in a defensive posture with no way out. After the Plei Can (Ben Het) and Khe Giao battles, it is manifest that his effort to "Vietnamize" the war is but sheer illusion. The morale of U.S. and puppet troops is sinking and the *New York Times* has disclosed that one in every 5 soldiers of the puppet army is a deserter.

Militarily, June has provided an unmistakable proof of the final failure of the U.S. Viet Nam adventure.

SOUTH VIET NAM *IN BRIEF*

(*Continued from page 8*)

— On June 13, 6 patriotic armymen of the puppet 781st civil guard company at So Tu Na Cat, near Hon Quan, assisted the PLAF in wiping out this unit completely.

On June 20, elements of the puppet 244th civil guard company stationed at Long My (Mekong Delta) refused combat in spite of the officers' summons.

According to Western news agencies, on June 27, in Chu Lai, a major U.S. base Southeast of Da Nang, a U.S. vessel bombarded a village, inflicting 11 casualties.

Early in June, an epidemic of cholera broke out in enemy occupied areas of Rach Gia province in the southernmost tip of South Viet Nam. The Health Service of the provincial people's power launched a widespread hygiene and prophylactic campaign in the surrounding districts, and inoculated in the first days of the campaign 20,000 people in the four hardest hit villages.

Thanks to these measures, the plague has been confined to the enemy-controlled areas only.

For the passage of troops

CHEMICAL GENOCIDE STEPPED UP...

(*Continued from page 5*)

toxic gases and chemical products against man and crops in South Viet Nam.

The World Conference of Lawyers for Viet Nam held from July 6 to 10, 1968 at Grenoble said in the Third Commission Resolution:

"The U.S. is equally violating the rules of customary international law on the use of gas and toxic and chemical products for military purposes by their employment of such products, among others those known as defoliants which particularly as they are used on a large scale, are capable of inducing death, especially in children and old people. The latter products are also used by the forces of aggression to destroy the crops and to poison cattle and poultry, in order to starve out the civil population.

"In this connection it is important to recall that at the International Conference on Human Rights called by the United Nations in Tehran from April 22 — May 13, 1968, a resolution on the protection of human rights in the event of armed conflict considered that human rights were undermined by the use of chemical and biological warfare, including napalm bombs".

Nixon has inherited a legacy from Johnson but personally he has scaled the rung of crimes since January 20, 1969. He cannot shirk the heavy responsibility for intensification of the highly criminal chemical war in South Viet Nam.

The point is not to re-examine nor to give a new orientation to U.S. policy on bacteriological and chemical weapons but to end immediately chemical genocide in South Viet Nam and to definitively give up bacteriological and chemical war which would be a genocide on a world scale. History has stigmatized Johnson as the most heinous war criminal of our times. Nixon bids fair to become his rival.

SUMMER RICE HARVEST IN AN UPLAND VILLAGE

(*Continued from page 3*)

cause to bring about the common achievements described above of the village.

IT is interesting to recall that, before the triumph of the Revolution in August 1945, when they were still living under the semi-colonial and semi-feudal yoke of local lords whose service was encouraged by the colonialists to hold back the progress of the people, the Muong minority people at Nhan Nghia used to starve. All the fertile lands belonged to the feudalists. The people just had to live on wild yam and other roots they could get from the jungle, and work the land for the seigneurs without pay. Everyday, they also had to take turns as domestic servants for them. Muong Vo hamlet had up to 33 families of seigneurs for a total of only 173 households. The old folk used to say that the inhabitants were only exempted from feeding rice into the mouths of the local feudal rulers. Not a single medical worker or a class-room was to be found in the village. People who fell sick were convinced that their fate was in the hands of ghosts and evil spirits. In case of death, the body was left until the end of the year before burial. If the seigneurs wanted anything at all, even the girls of the family, they could get it any time. As to farming methods, they were extremely backward. To bring in the rice crop for instance, one just picked ear by ear by hand. The paddy thus harvested was taken home, separated by trampling then pounded by a hand pestle until it became husked rice. In this way, it took a person a whole day to get a quantity of husked rice enough for his own family's consumption only. In such circumstances, to think of some additional jobs was completely out of question.

In the lively atmosphere prevailing in the village which had just harvested a bumper crop, 68-year-old Bui Van Ngam pensively said to me: "Don't you think that the change for the better in our living conditions and farming methods, in 25 years of our Democratic Republic is tremendous? One thought it would take centuries."

MILITARY OPERATIONS

PLAF Widespread Continued Destruction of Substantial Enemy Forces

— *North, Northwest and East of Saigon, 500 enemy troops and 120 military vehicles put out of action.*
— *Near Ben Tre, 10 cannons and heavy mortars and 4,000 shells destroyed.*
— *Heavy enemy losses in the Ben Het sector (Plei Can).*
— *Three U.S. companies wiped out near Khe Sanh.*

COMBAT news released by *Giai Phong* Press Agency this week highlighted several PLAF successful attacks in various sectors with the Saigon area as main theatre. Supplementary reports gave a more complete picture of the enemy disasters North-Northeast of Saigon and South-East of Hue.

SAIGON FRONT

IN the **Hon Quan** sector, enemy motorized forces continued to sustain severe losses. Four ambushes in 4 days (June 20-23) cost the Americans 56 armoured cars and trucks knocked out and 11 choppers cut down. In 2 artillery attacks on June 15 on the base of the 3rd Brigade of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division nicknamed *Tropic Lightning* at **Dau Tieng** (64 km northwest of Saigon) the PLAF wiped out 195 GIs, 5 cannons, 7 vehicles and 3 choppers, and burnt an ammo dump. In an assault on June 19 on the U.S. armoured compound at **Ben Suc** (48 km northwest of Saigon) they rendered 18 vehicles unserviceable and disabled 80 GIs.

On the night of June 24, at Giong Lon, Ben Suc region, they stormed a U.S. camp, wrecked 38 vehicles, killed or wounded 160 GIs.

At **Nom Pao** (13 km northeast of Tay Ninh) another U.S. armoured compound came under fire on the night of June 27 and 13 vehicles were blasted to pieces. At dawn, a U.S. company, moved in to rescue the battered position, was struck off the strength.

To the north-northwest of Saigon, the battles against puppet troops at **Khe Giao** on June 16, 17 and 19 resulted in (the writing off of the musterroll of 2 battalions of Regiment 52 (puppet division 18) and 2 companies of Regiment 48, same division ; 730 puppet soldiers and officers were listed as casualties, and 10 choppers grounded.

On the night of June 24, the patriots rushed an encampment of Thai mercenaries near **Long Thanh** (28km east of Saigon) and destroyed 29 armoured cars.

MEKONG DELTA

ON June 18, the PLAF simultaneously raided 2 U.S. artillery positions, one near **Ben Tre** city wharf (70km south-southwest of Saigon) and the other at **Giong Xoai**, about 5km further south. At **Giong Xoai**, they wiped out a company (100 GIs) and 6 105mm howitzers, 1,100 shells and blotted out a signal camp. At Ben Tre city wharf, 30 adverse troops were knocked out, 4 cannons destroyed and thrown into the river and 3,000 shells burnt.

On the same day, in an ambush on **Vam Co Tay** river, south-east of Moc Hoa, some 60km west-southwest of Saigon, 3 US vessels were sunk or set on fire and 40 GIs killed or wounded.

Further west, towards the Gulf of Thailand, 90 puppet soldiers were wiped out in engagements at **Tri Ton** (190km west-southwest of Saigon).

WESTERN HIGHLANDS

BLOODY ambushes were laid by the PLAF against enemy motorized columns, especially on Highway No 19 linking Pleiku to Qui Nhon. On June 18, near **Mang Yang** Pass, 45km east of Pleiku, 13 enemy vehicles and 28 GIs were put out of action and one chopper downed. On June 24, 8km East of **Mang Yang**, 2 convoys moving in opposite direction ran into an ambush which caused the loss of 24 enemy vehicles.

Pressure on the U.S. Special Forces camp at Plei Can, or Ben Het, west of Dakto, forced on the enemy command a long and costly effort to defend, supply and maintain contact with the besieged troops. A partial report on enemy losses in operations in this sector covering the period from June 6 to June 24 listed 1,600 casualties, 41 aircraft shot down and more than 180 vehicles, mostly tanks and armoured cars, and 10 pieces of heavy artillery, destroyed. On June 23 and June 24 alone, the enemy toll in this sector ran to 340 lives, 49 vehicles including 33 armoured cars and 4 choppers.

NORTHERNMOST SECTOR

A big success was won on June 27 at 5 km from the former Khe Sanh town to the Southwest, at Hill 420 where 2 mechanized companies and one artillery company of the U.S. forces, 300 GIs and 5 cannons and 31 armoured cars were put out of action.

A Da Nang-Hue military train was intercepted on June 26 North of Clouds Pass : the locomotive and 14 carriages were derailed and the escorting GIs put out of action.

A follow-up report released by *GPA* said that the PLAF June 18 overnight onslaughts on a series of 12 targets spread over a length of 20 km southeast of Hue inflicted on the enemy 350 casualties and the loss of 10 cannons and mortars and 70 vehicles.

All means are good when it comes to supply the frontline

PLAF men are eager to constantly raise their cultural standard.
Photo : *A study session at a PLAF unit.*

South Viet Nam IN BRIEF

Giai Phong Press Agency reported that provincial People's Revolutionary Committees had been elected by Congresses of local people's representatives in the provinces of Vinh Long (Mekong Delta), Ba Ria-Long Khanh (corresponding to the provinces of Phuoc Tuy and Long Khanh of the puppet administration), East and Southeast of Saigon, and Northern Gia Dinh (Saigon sector). So far, 33 provinces and 4 towns in all have already their PRC.

According to Western sources, on July 1, a motion demanding the dissolution of the Tran Van Huong " government " collected the signatures of more than 90 out of 135 members of the Saigon House of Representatives. UPI reported that the signatories, including about 50 staunch supporters of Thieu, will hand in the petition to the latter over the week-end.

On June 20, the puppet administration sentenced priest Tran Du, editor-in-chief of the Saigon journal *Hoa Binh* (Peace), to 3 months' imprisonment. The ground invoked was the publication in this journal of a letter from 5 (puppet) " deputies " denouncing the (puppet) province chief of Binh Dinh as owner of gambling houses.

According to Giai Phong Press Agency, on June 9, two GI's immolated themselves by fire at the Van Kiep military training camp in the province of Ba Ria, southeast of Saigon, in protest against the U.S. war in Viet Nam.

(Continued page 7)